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historical knowledge, and will probably long remain a standard account of the capture of Constantinople.

D. C. MUNRO.

*A History of Modern Europe.* By MERRICK WHITCOMB. [Twentieth Century Text-books.] (New York : D. Appleton and Company. 1903. Pp. xii, 361.)

THE author of this work states in his preface that it differs from the majority of school histories in laying greater emphasis upon the contemporary period. Accordingly considerably more than half the book is devoted to the French Revolution and the nineteenth century. The development of the modern nations out of the chaotic material of the middle ages is but briefly sketched, but, as regards the main political elements, is probably sufficiently clear for the purposes of this work.

The chapters on the Renaissance and the Reformation, probably the best in the book, are analytic and descriptive much more than narrative — analytic of movements, forces, and conditions, of causes and results. In considerable measure this is characteristic of the work as a whole. Dates are somewhat less numerous than in most school histories, but there are several places where the inclusion of a date in text or margin could have prevented confusion. Similarly, the use of such terms as “13th Vendemiaire” and “18 Brumaire” without a word of explanation until the pupil stumbles upon a partially explanatory note some pages farther on, and even then not to learn to what dates in our system these Revolutionary dates correspond, is not commendable.

The principal causes of the French Revolution are set forth with considerable clearness, and the progress of the Revolution interestingly though rapidly presented. Of wars and campaigns little is said ; it is to political values that attention is chiefly called. It was probably not in the plan of the book to treat the history of England except incidentally ; at any rate we find only a few sentences on the English Reformation, a few pages on the English Revolution of the seventeenth century, nothing on the eighteenth century, and a short chapter on the reforms of the nineteenth century, including some account of England's colonial possessions.

It is unfortunate that the interesting government of Germany should be dismissed with so unsatisfactory a statement as the following : “Her political organization differs from that of the states of Western Europe. The Emperor is an autocrat ; his will constitutes the policy of the nation ; no real parliamentary government exists” (p. 218). The few sentences regarding the formation of the Empire after the Franco-Prussian War, together with the characterization of it, will give a student not merely an inadequate, but a very erroneous conception of what the German Empire really is.

There is a good account of the race-problem in Austria-Hungary. The history ends practically with the formation of the dual monarchy. The history of Germany and Italy, likewise, ends with the completion of

union in each case. There are portraits of Wilhelm II. and Victor Emmanuel III., but no reference to them in the text. For France the account includes the constitution of 1875 with a few references to later events. The chapters on "Africa" and "The Far East" are all that could be asked for in a book of this character. The text ends with a chapter on "Material Progress."

A prominent feature of the book is a so-called "Source Review" at the end of each section into which the chapters are divided. This consists in extracts partly from the sources, partly from standard histories, partly from less important works. Considered from the point of view of interest, the selections are generally well chosen. This feature will commend the book to many teachers who are unable for want of time or for other reasons to use distinctive source-books. On the other hand, many would prefer that the space thus occupied had been utilized for fuller historical treatment, leaving the matter of supplementary reading to their own devices. At the end of each section there is also a brief list of references. It is to be regretted that for the nineteenth century the references are almost solely to Judson and Alison Phillips. Brief genealogical tables are interspersed through the book, and a chronological summary of important events arranged in parallel columns by principal countries is appended. There are numerous illustrations and a few small maps.

Such defects as have been pointed out are mainly defects of omission. Upon the whole, it must be said, the history of modern times is attractively told. As a rule there is clearness as well as an admirable conciseness. The author is usually accurate and fair, though oftentimes frank in the expression of his opinions. With a live teacher to read between the lines (and translate), this history will make a good working text-book.

EDMUND C. BURNETT.

*Isabella d'Este, Marchioness of Mantua. A Study of the Renaissance.*

By JULIA CARTWRIGHT (Mrs. Ady). (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, 1903. Two vols., pp. xxiii, 392; xiii, 419.)

AFTER the popes, artists, soldiers, and despots of the Italian Renaissance have been weighed in the scales of the modern scholar and investigator, it is plainly the turn of the women of that astonishing period. Beatrice and Isabella d'Este, Vittoria Colonna, Elisabetta Gonzaga — to name only a few of the fair sisterhood — are certainly a resplendent company. On other grounds than those of mere politeness they might complain that they have been kept waiting over-long. But the stolid heart of learning is at last yielding to their charm. A generation ago they attracted the powerful pen of Gregorovius to their cause and service. His *Lucrezia Borgia* is not only a remarkable portrait, but also a rich fund of contemporary information. The reader seizes the Renaissance afresh from a single and highly individual point of view. Pasolini has done something of the same sort for Caterina Sforza, and now Julia Cartwright comes forward with Isabella d'Este. Without aiming at a final biography, she hopes, she tells us in her preface, to arouse and hold our interest.